

[28th March 1959]

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 1031 asked by Sri N. Marudachalam (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisami) at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 28th March 1959, page 734 supra.]

There was partial strike of pupils in the Board High School, Rameswaram, on the afternoon of 17th November 1958.

2. The Secretary, Mandala Congress Committee, sent a telegram to the District Educational Officer, Ramanathapuram, on 14th November 1958 informing him that one of the Assistants of the School obstructed the celebration of the Children's Day. He prayed that action might be taken against the teacher. The District Educational Officer forwarded the telegram to the Special Officer, Ramanathapuram, for necessary action.

3. The District Educational Officer, Ramanathapuram, received two telegrams on 17th November 1958, one from the President, Panchayat Board, Rameswaram, and the other from the students of the Board High School, Rameswaram, the former informing him that the students were on strike and the latter complaining that they (students) were being attacked by local Congress people. Copies of the telegrams were sent to the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram, for information. The District Educational Officer also proceeded to Rameswaram the same night.

4. The enquiry by District Educational Officer revealed the following facts. One of the Assistants of the School had been to the Panchayat Office on the 14th morning to take part in the procession of the children (14th November being the Children's day) which started from the Panchayat Office. The Assistant picked up quarrel with one Sri A. Ayyaswamy, Secretary, Mandala Congress Committee, Rameswaram, for carrying the Congress flag instead of the National Flag in the procession. In the altercation that ensued some of the pupils felt that their teacher was insulted. Apparently, the students protested against the use of the Congress flag instead of the National Flag. They wanted that the Headmaster of the School should get an apology from the Secretary of the Mandala Congress Committee which the Headmaster refused as the incident took place outside school premises over which he had no control. The pupils were rather agitated over this incident and this opportune moment was exploited by some persons in the place who were bent on fomenting trouble.

5. The school reopened after the week and holidays on the 17th November 1958 (Monday) and there was full attendance in the forenoon. Some of the pupil leaders approached the Headmaster and informed him in writing that they would go on strike that afternoon as a protest against their alleged grievance not having been redressed. In spite of the warning given by the Headmaster against such a course of action, a large number of pupils in the higher forms of the school kept away from the school. The

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attendance in the lower forms was however satisfactory. The student strikers clashed with some of the outsiders in the street that afternoon. Reports were sent to the Sub-Inspector of Police, Rameswaram, by both the pupils and outsiders involved in the clash.

6. The District Educational Officer addressed the pupils on 18th November 1958, when he went for inspection of the school. The attendance was full that day. The District Educational Officer impressed on the pupils the unreasonableness of their demand for an apology from an outsider, which was the cause for their strike the previous day. He also exhorted them to behave better in future. Thereupon the pupils expressed their regret for the absence of a majority of them from the school and pleaded ignorance of the consequences of their action.

7. The District Educational Officer has appraised the Government of these facts and has reported that no further action need be taken unless the pupils allow themselves to be exploited again by outside elements. There has been no further report or complaint in this regard.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 1041 asked by Sri A. Vedarathnam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 28th March 1959, page 735 supra.]

The introduction of handicrafts is not confined to particular types of schools in this State. Handicrafts and Prevocational subjects are compulsory in lower elementary and higher elementary schools. Craft teaching is a prime factor in basic schools.

Art and crafts are prescribed as one of the compulsory subjects for all middle schools. Arts, Hobbies and Practical activities are prescribed for all high schools.

The names of Handicrafts and Prevocational subjects taught in elementary schools are given below :—

I. Main crafts—

- 1 Wood work for boys.
- 2 Weaving for boys.
- 3 Gardening and Agriculture for boys.
- 4 Home craft for girls.

II. Subsidiary crafts—

- 1 Leather work.
- 2 Lacquer work.
- 3 Poultry farming.
- 4 Bee-keeping.
- 5 Book Binding.
- 6 Net making or Basket making
- 7 Tape weaving